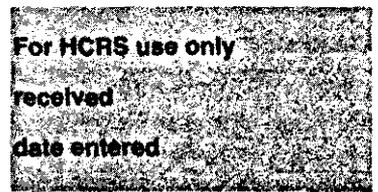


VLR - 5/19/82
URIP - 7/15/82

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Catlett House
and/or common Catlett House

2. Location

street & number 303 Berkeley Place N/A not for publication
city, town Staunton N/A vicinity of 6th congressional district (M. Caldwell Butler)
state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 790

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: rest home

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Ida A. Showker
street & number P.O. Box 2535
city, town Staunton N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Hall; Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court
street & number 109-113 East Beverley Street
city, town Staunton state Virginia 24401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Staunton Foundation Architectural
title Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date April 1976 federal state county local
depository for survey records Historic Staunton Foundation Office
city, town Staunton state Virginia 24401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Catlett House is a detached Queen Anne-style dwelling on a raised corner lot in the historic "Gospel Hill" neighborhood of Staunton. The three-story, three-bay structure is faced with shingles on the upper floors and with rough-faced rubble fieldstone on the foundation and first floor. The exterior presents an irregular outline with its steep hipped roof broken by a tower and gables. The interior is elaborate and handsome and survives with few significant alterations. The house stands as one of the best representatives of its style in the region.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The complex hipped and gable roof of the Catlett House is interrupted by large projecting gables, a rounded tower, and gabled and eyebrow dormers. The main roof was originally shingled but was replaced ca. 1920 with a metal roof, now painted bright red. The roof of the tower is bell shaped and is covered with dark brown shingles. The metal roof is impressed with a shingle-like design, further adding to the richness of the design.

The fishscale shingles on the upper two stories are set in an imbricated pattern and are stained and weathered a rich, dark brown. The stone of the foundation and first floor is coursed fieldstone rubble of a warm yellow-brown. All the exterior trim is painted flat white. Fenestration throughout the house is varied, with many windows featuring leaded and stained glass.

The main facade, facing south, is separated into three bays: a projecting gable on the west and a round turret on the east, connected by a plain central bay. This arrangement produces a pleasing and balanced design with an emphasis on the horizontal lines of the house.

The upper floor features a Palladian window in the gable end on the west; an eyebrow dormer in the center; and a three-part, double-hung-sash window in the turret. The third and second floors are separated by a wide frieze with classical garlands and swags. On the second floor are a three-part bay window on the west, a door in the center that opens onto the balcony created by the porch roof below, and two 1/1 windows in the turret.

The first floor is embraced by a wide verandah that wraps around three sides of the house. The west bay of the first floor has a bay window similar to that on the second floor, while the turret bay has a rounded bay window. The central bay contains the main entrance doorway with its wide paneled door with a window panel; the door is flanked by sidelights with elaborately leaded glass. There are auxiliary entrances under the verandah in both the east and west side walls. Both the east and west elevations have large projecting gables and chimneys with corbeled caps.

Exterior alterations include a carport on the east side, a bathroom addition under the verandah's west side, and an enclosed porch in the rear. None are considered permanent alterations and can be removed.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1896-7 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural heritage of Staunton embraces not only the city's outstanding institutional and residential buildings of the early and mid-19th century but a collection of unusually sophisticated turn-of-the-century dwellings dotting the downtown neighborhoods. Of the first rank is the Catlett House, a rich, classic example of the American interpretation of the Queen Anne Style of the late 19th century. The house incorporates all the elements associated with the mode: a mixture of materials, asymmetrical plan, tower, gables, classical details, and a multiplicity of window types. Lending particular interest is the lavish use of wood shingle cladding echoing the tile cladding of English vernacular buildings. The house was completed in 1897 for Fannie Catlett, widow of a prominent local citizen.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Staunton was a particularly prosperous community in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras, and the wealth of its leading citizens is reflected in the many fine houses they built up and down the hills of the town. Fortunately the citizens have maintained pride in their architectural achievements, and an unusually high proportion of these quite large houses survives for a town of its size. Conspicuously located on the corner of Coalter Street and Berkeley Place, immediately adjacent to the campus of Mary Baldwin College, is the outstanding Queen Anne house begun in 1896 by R.H. Catlett, a wealthy and prominent local attorney. Catlett died that same year, and the house was inherited by his widow, Fannie. It remained in the Catlett family until 1973, the continuity of ownership apparently being an important factor in the preservation of the house. The Catlett family sold the house to Vernon Greaver, who sold it the next year to the present owner, Mrs. Ida Showker. Mrs. Showker now uses the house as a retirement home for ladies.

Although the house is in the more-restrained Queen Anne style, as compared to other modes of the period, it stands as a showcase of late Victorian opulence and design. There are nine fireplaces, all different, and twenty-one leaded-glass windows on the first floor alone. Most of the original woodwork and detailing is intact, including a magnificent butler's pantry in natural oak, bathrooms with original marble fixtures, and a wealth of louvred interior blinds.

EAB/CCL

9. Major Bibliographical References

Armistead, Mrs. Robert Morris. Staunton, Va. Interview.

Staunton Tax and Deed Records. City Hall; Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Staunton, Va.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Double lot averages 110' x 110'

Quadrangle name Staunton, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	6	6	9	2	3	0	4	2	2	4	0	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on NE corner of N. Coalter St. and Berkeley Place; thence extending about 135' N along N. Coalter to alley; thence about 100' E along S side of alley; thence about 110' S to N side of Berkeley Place; thence about 110' W along Berkeley to point of origin. (Staunton's City Assessor's Map 376, Lots 16 & 17.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #1)

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

221 Governor Street, Richmond, Va. (804) 786-314

name/title (2) Elizabeth A. Bray, Administrative Assistant

organization Historic Staunton Foundation

date June 1981; April 1982

street & number P.O. Box 2534

telephone (703) 885-7676

city or town Staunton

state Virginia 24401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAY 18 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

CATLETT HOUSE, STAUNTON, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 10

Page 1, 1

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

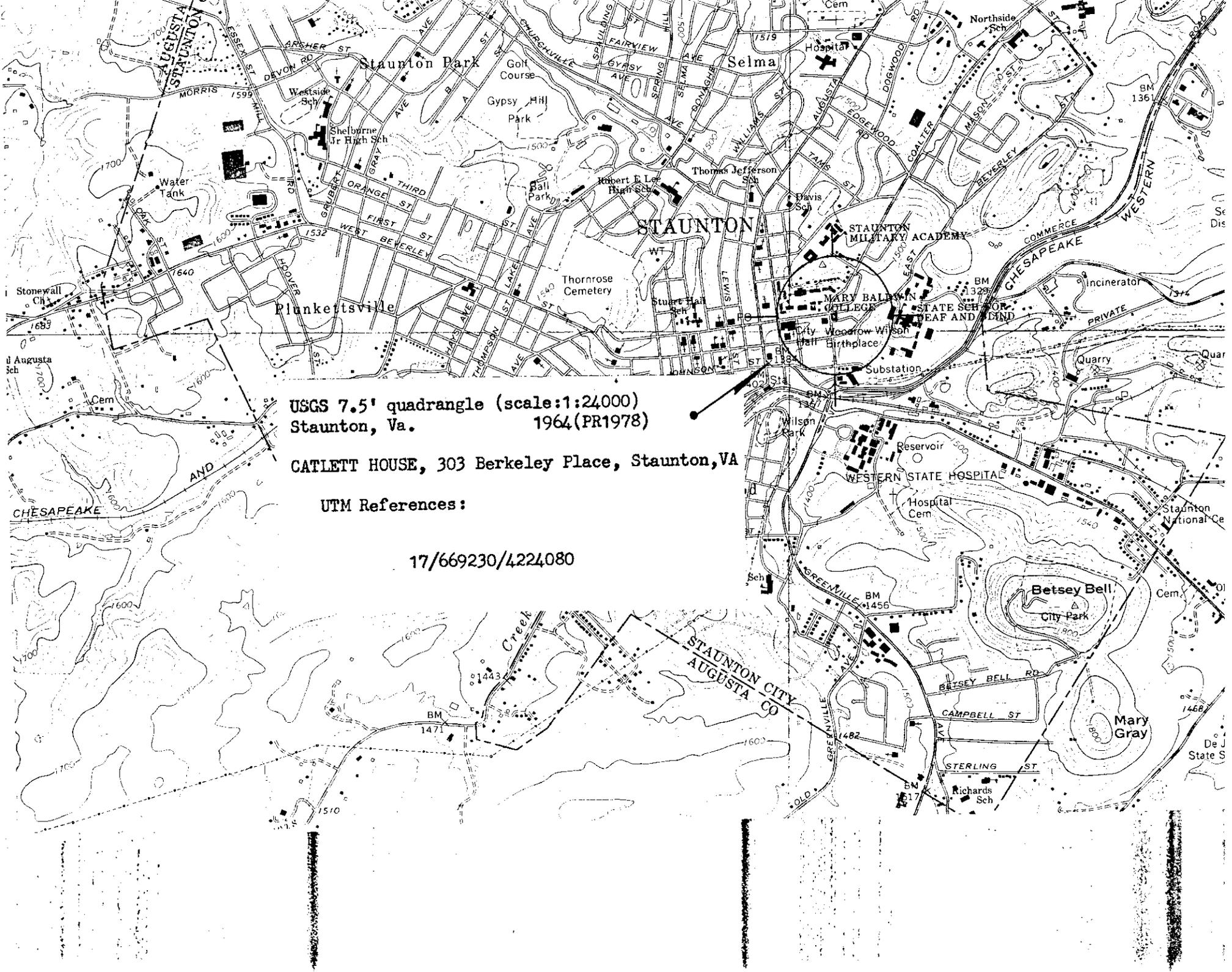
7. Description -- Architectural Analysis

The interior of the Catlett House abounds with rich decoration including leaded and stained glass, five-panel doors, chair rails, and nine fireplaces. The mantel in the entry hall is flanked by very tall fluted columns supporting an overmantel shelf with egg-and-dart molding. The overmantel has a beveled mirror and carved foliage decoration; there is also carved foliage under the main mantel shelf. A beautiful butler's pantry with built-in cabinets and a dumbwaiter is executed in natural golden oak. The kitchen still has its original cabinets. A handsome, three-story open staircase with fluted newel posts leads to the upper floors which also have five-panel doors, stained and leaded glass, and some bathrooms with the original marble fixtures. Another unusual feature is the series of three oval rooms, one on each floor of the turret.

EAB

10. Geographical Data - Boundary Justification

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The bounds have been drawn to coincide with those of the city lots on which the house is situated.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Staunton, Va. 1964 (PR1978)

CATLETT HOUSE, 303 Berkeley Place, Staunton, VA

UTM References:

17/669230/4224080